

Message Text

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21

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191496

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, US

SUBJECT: COMBINED AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE

REF: TAIPEI 5182

1. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT WHILE CINCPAC'S OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR COMBINING BLUE SKY, LARK AND EAGLE INTO ONE EXERCISE IS TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS, ITS REAL PURPOSE IS TO REDUCE FREQUENCY OF US EXERCISE INVOLVEMENT WITH ROC. CINCPAC BELIEVES THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH US CHINA POLICY AND WE ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH AND ENCOURAGE THIS APPROACH. WE ARE AWARE THAT TDC AND POSSIBLY OTHER COMMANDS ARE UNHAPPY WITH CINCPAC DECISION FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING ALLEGED ADVERSE IMPACT ON TRAINING OF BOTH US AND ROC PARTICIPANTS. REGARDLESS OF THE VALIDITY OF THESE COMPLAINTS, WE BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE OVERRIDING AND THAT BOTH US AND ROC INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY CONDITIONING TAIWAN TO A LOWER AND ULTIMATELY ZERO LEVEL OF JOINT US/ROC MILITARY EXERCISE ACTIVITY.

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2. ABOVE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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